

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. THE KING'S MAN URGES ACTION

ACCORDING TO ANWAR KHATIB, FORMER GOVERNOR OF JORDANIAN JERUSALEM AND KING HUSSEIN'S MAN IN EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK, HUSSEIN HAS AGREED TO RESUME DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE WEST BANK, ALTHOUGH ONLY ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS. KHATIB ALSO TOLD CONSUL GENERAL NEWLIN THAT:

--WEST BANKERS MAY VOCALLY SUPPORT THE PLO, BUT THE SILENT MAJORITY WANTS ASSOCIATION OF A WEST BANK/GAZA
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STATE WITH JORDAN.

--CURRENT LEADERS OF THE CONFRONTATION STATES AND THE PLO ARE MODERATES AND THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WHICH EXISTS FOR PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT MUST BE EXPLOITED SOON.

--UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN AROUSED AMONG WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WHICH, IF UNFULFILLED, WILL BE DISASTROUS FOR THE US AND CURRENT ARAB LEADERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) JERUSALEM 1731, 12/16.)

2. IRAN/PDRY: PHANTOM PILOT FAILS TO APPEAR

FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY TOLD EMBASSY TEHRAN ON DECEMBER 15 THAT, DESPITE SAUDI ASSURANCES, THE PILOT OF THE DOWNED IRANIAN PHANTOM JET HAD NOT BEEN RETURNED. SHOULD SAUDI-KUWAITI EFFORTS FAIL, THE GOI MAY TAKE THE CASE TO THE UN. KHALATBARY ADDED THAT IRAN WAS NOT IN ANY SENSE NEGOTIATING WITH THE PDRY, HAVING MADE CLEAR ITS DEMANDS FOR RETURN OF THE PILOT AND FOR AN IRANIAN PRESENCE DURING ATTEMPTS TO SALVAGE THE PLANE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: KHALATBARY'S REMARKS ON NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE LATEST GOI LINE. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS POSITION REPRESENTS A HARDENING OF IRAN'S OVERT STANCE OR A REVERSION TO THE GOI'S INITIAL POSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 12422, 12/16.)

3. LEE PUSHES ASEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS

SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE HAS CONVINCED THE INDONESIAN, THAI, AND MALAYSIAN CHIEF OF STATE OF THE NEED FOR TANGIBLE ASEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS, IF ASEAN IS TO STAND AS A BULWARK AGAINST HANOI. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS, THE ASEAN SECRET

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LEADERS:

--ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF LIMITED ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION; AND

--AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF INITIATING ASEAN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US, DESPITE RELUCTANCE VOICED BY THE MALAYSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: STIMULATION OF ASEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS HAS BECOME A PRIMARY FOREIGN POLICY GOAL FOR SINGAPORE. BUT CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE NEEDED TO BULWARK THE NEXT ASEAN SUMMIT, WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE IN MID-1977. (SECRET) SINGAPORE 5613 (LIMDIS), 12/16.)

4. FTAI: FRENCH FOREBODINGS

QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA JEAN-PIERRE CHAUVET

GAVE EMBASSY PARIS ON DECEMBER 14 A "PERSONAL" AND PESSIMISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE FTAI SITUATION. HE SAID THAT:

--HE AND SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THAT HIGHER LEVEL FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF THE FTAI SITUATION.

--BECAUSE FTAI COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAMIL HAS NOT ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A LEADER AND BECAUSE OF THE MAKE-UP OF THE ELECTORATE, THE ELECTION IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE A MAJORITY LESS HOSTILE TO SOMALIA THAN THE FRENCH THOUGHT AT ONE TIME.

--SUCH A MAJORITY WILL ENCOURAGE THE AFARS TO RESORT TO ANTI-GOVERNMENT GUERRILLA ACTIVITY.

--NEITHER HE NOR HIS WORKING LEVEL COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THAT EVEN KAMIL COULD SIGN THE BILATERAL ACCORDS NEC-
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ESSARY TO KEEP FRENCH FORCES IN DJIBOUTI.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT CHAUVET WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HIS CONCERNS ARE SHARED BY OTHERS IN THE QUAI. HE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHERE THE US STANDS BEFORE HE TRAVELS TO DJIBOUTI, SINCE THE DETERIORATION HE PERCEIVES IN FRANCE'S POSITION INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CONFLICT WILL ESCALATE TO THE SUPER-POWER LEVEL. IT STILL MAY BE THAT THE FRENCH WILL ASK US TO INTERCEDE WITH THE SOVIETS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 37089 (LIMDIS), 12/15.)

5. RUSSIANS BALK AT INDIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS

DESPITE RUMORS THAT PODGORNYY OR GROMYKO MIGHT VISIT INDIA SOON, A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY NEW DELHI THERE WILL BE NO "POLITICAL-LEVEL" VISITS FROM MOSCOW IN THE COMING MONTHS. THE OFFICIAL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CONGRESS PARTY AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT CONGRESS-SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY RELATIONS, AND ULTIMATELY MIGHT AFFECT GOI-USSR RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MRS. GANDHI MAY HAVE GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR AN APPROACH ON THE PODGORNYY VISIT, WE ARE NOT SURPRISED TO SEE THE SOVIETS DRAG THEIR FEET. INDIA'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND ANTI-COMMUNIST SANJAY GANDHI'S CURRENTLY PROMINENT ROLE CLEARLY DISTURB THE SOVIETS, WHO WILL WAIT FOR THE POLITICAL TANGLES TO UNWIND BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI

18076, 12/15.)

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